

We All Live Downstream!

# Clean Water is Important to All of Us!



When rain flows over streets and other surfaces, it picks up pollutants and carries them into the stormwater conveyance "storm drain" system.

Did you know that storm drains are **NOT** connected to sanitary sewer systems and treatment plants?

The storm drain system is designed to prevent flooding by transporting water away from developed areas.

However, this water is not filtered or treated, and all the contaminants it contains eventually flow to our streams, lakes, and ocean where we swim and fish.

Once there, polluted runoff can harm wildlife and habitats. In some cases, it can even cause beach closures or make fish and shellfish unsafe to eat.

## Why do we need Clean Water?

Clean water is essential for every aspect of life. In addition to sustaining our local water resources it ensures economic growth and prosperity. Population growth has impacted water quality and placed increasing pressure on supplies. Controlling pollution is critical to preserving our aquatic resources and the economic viability of this region.

## How you can help keep our water clean...

Residents of San Diego County can make a difference. Becoming aware of ways to prevent stormwater pollution is the first step toward



# We All Live Downstream!

## We All Live Downstream!

## Easy Steps to Clean Water

### Sweep or Rake

Conserve water.

Do not use a hose to wash off sidewalks, driveways, and patios. Sweep up debris and put it in a trash can. Rake up yard waste to compost or recycle.



### Reduce the Use of Landscape Chemicals

Decrease the use of lawn and garden care products such as pesticides, weed killers, and chemical fertilizers. Consider using non-toxic pest control methods. Avoid over watering which may wash these products into the gutter and storm drains.



### Buy Non-Toxic Products

When possible, use non-toxic products for household cleaning. If you must use a toxic cleaning product, buy small quantities, use it sparingly, and properly dispose of unused portions. For the Household Hazardous Waste collection facility nearest you, call 1-800 CLEANUP 1(800) 253-2687.



### Recycle Used Motor Oil and Earn \$\$

Certified used oil collection centers will pay a few cents per gallon for used oil. Collect used oil in sealed containers and take it to a certified center. For the certified center nearest you, call 1-800 CLEANUP 1(800) 253-2687.



For more information on how you can prevent the pollution of our creeks, rivers, lakes, and ocean or to report a problem, please call the **Stormwater HOTLINE at (888) 846-0800** or visit [www.projectcleanwater.org](http://www.projectcleanwater.org).

### Dispose of Yard Waste Frequently

By disposing of grass, leaves, shrubs, and other organic matter more frequently — less will wash into storm drains. Request a green waste bin from your trash hauler, or compost your yard waste.



### Clean up After Your Pets

Take a bag when you walk your pets and always clean up after them. Flush pet waste down the toilet or dispose of it in a sealed plastic bag and throw it in the trash.



### Care for Your Vehicles

Change your oil routinely. Fix fluid leaks immediately. Keep your vehicles tuned-up. Wash your vehicle at home on an unpaved area, such as lawn or gravel. Use very little soap. Pour remaining soapy water to an indoor sink or toilet. Conserve water by using a shut-off nozzle. Consider using a car wash designed to collect the wash water.

